

Nursing Echoes.

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spent on giving timely nursing assistance in sickness is well laid out.

Sisters Robinson, Campbell, Harris, Hayes, and Lingard, of the Indian Army Nursing Service, have applied for and obtained re-engagement for another term of five years.

The *Lancet* thus comments upon Mr. F. J. Gant's latest literary effort, "A Lady Nurse of the Times":—"Mr. Gant must be a veritable Sherlock Holmes in the nursing world. He is always coming across nurses with a past, which past he dissects with merciless minuteness and puts together again in the form of a story. We are glad to say, however, that Mr. Gant informs us in his preface that the heroine of his latest story is dead, so that she will not see her life's tragedy in cold print." For ourselves, we are of opinion that Mr. Gant's friends would do him service by persuading him to keep out of print.

Columns of letters have appeared recently in the *Morning Post* on the subject of "Well-to-do Patients in Hospitals." The use by the well-to-do of hospitals maintained by the benevolent for the benefit of the poor is, of course, to be deprecated. At the same time, there is a class of persons upon whom illness at the present time falls very hardly. The self-respecting, self-supporting, thrifty middle classes can maintain themselves and those dependent on them in comfort when in health on incomes of from £300 to £500 a year, but the expenses connected with an operation or long illness are very hard to meet. One writer says:—"At present there seems no choice between going as a free patient to a hospital or being charged most exorbitantly at a nursing home, which combines all the disadvantages of a private house and a public hospital. I think many are driven to a hospital who would gladly pay a fair sum, but cannot afford

what anything of a serious operation involves, and which may vary from £50 to £500." It is quite certain that the provision of efficient care of the professional classes in sickness is one which has yet to be grappled with. It would probably be best effected by some form of insurance.

When shall we find the same regard for the honour of the uniform of trained nurses shown by the State as it at present accords to that worn by the soldiers of the King? At Chester recently a man who acted as collector for the local infirmary in connection with a carnival, and whose face was smeared with red paint when he was wearing a helmet, and regulation serge with soldiers' straps, and the buttons of the Cheshire Regiment, was fined £1 and costs for wearing the King's uniform in a manner calculated to bring it into contempt.

Contrast this with the report of the representative of *Nursing Notes*, who states that in her near vicinity, when she went to view the Coronation procession, "were five women in uniform, only one of whom appeared to be really a nurse; the others were probably vendors of patent medicines, &c.—at least, it must so be hoped, for the straggling veils, brilliant golden hair, and Whitechapel fringes which distinguished them, with bright-coloured cotton gowns, not very fresh white aprons, and fly-away cloaks, led to such a supposition." Why should not a fine be imposed for wearing the uniform of the honourable profession of nursing in a manner calculated to bring it into contempt?

Nurses who are desirous of adding a knowledge of the nursing of cases of infectious disease to their professional experience may be glad to know that good opportunities for obtaining such experience are to be had at the Isolation Hospital, Swindon. The Matron, Miss Hill, is a highly qualified and experienced nurse, and the work in the hospital is very good.

Miss Richmond, the Matron, and the nursing staff of the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women are organising a bazaar in aid of a fund for a much-needed extension of the hospital. We hope their efforts will meet with cordial support. The good work done by the hospital is well known, and there are wealthy people in Birmingham and the suburbs whose benevolence could scarcely be directed into a better channel, and who could provide the whole amount needed with ease.

A meeting was recently held at Burnham, in Essex, for the purpose of placing the recently-formed Cottage Nursing Association on a business basis. A partially-trained nurse had been engaged last April from the County Nursing Association, by a self-constituted committee of ladies, who now called a meeting to consider the question. The

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